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**Post Operative instructions for Laparoscopic and Open Hernia repair:  
(Ventral, Inguinal, Incisional, and Umbilical).**

**Call and schedule your post-op visit to occur approximately 7-10 days after surgery.**

**Wound care:**

- 1) Remove outer dressing (if you have them) at 24-48 hours post-op after surgery.
- 2) Leave the steri-strips in place if you have them, they will fall off on their own.
- 3) You may have skin glue sealing your incision; this resembles super glue and is used to reinforce your dissolvable sutures, making your incision waterproof and allowing you to take a shower. Do not soak in a tub or go swimming for 14 days.
- 4) You may use an ice bag to reduce swelling at the surgery site for the first 24 hours and then switch to heat if needed. It is normal to feel a knot under your surgical incision for several months after surgery.
- 5) You are able to take a shower 24 hours after surgery. Dry off the surgical incision after showering and cover with dry gauze if needed.

**Diet:**

You may advance your diet as tolerated after surgery.

**Activity:**

For 6 weeks after surgery:

- 1) No heavy lifting over 20 lbs.
- 2) No strenuous exercise such as push-ups, sit-ups, or abdominal straining.
- 3) Walking is encouraged.
- 4) Normal daily activities are encouraged.
- 5) Running and biking are allowed when you feel up to it.
- 6) No driving until you are pain free and no longer using your pain medication.
- 7) Avoid extended bed rest.
- 8) For inguinal hernias in men, an athletic support may help decrease testicular swelling, and sitting in a recliner with your feet and head elevated should be avoided.

**Constipation and bloating:**

- 1) You should have a bowel movement within 3 days of surgery. If you are constipated, increase your water intake and use an over-the-counter stool softener such as mineral oil or a laxative such as Milk of Magnesia as directed on the bottle.

**Call our office if:**

- 1) You develop any unusual signs or symptoms such as tenderness, bleeding, redness, or drainage at the surgery site.
- 2) You have a temperature of 100.5 degrees or higher.
- 3) You have shortness of breath upon exertion.

**Drains:**

Drains are sometimes used after surgery to promote healing, you will be instructed on how to empty and document 24-hour totals on each drain (usually one and occasionally two drains are placed). This drain total log should be brought to your post-op visit for your physician to review and is often one of the deciding factors regarding time for removal.

Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Location:

17510 W. Grand Parkway S., Suite 490 · Sugar Land, Texas 77479 · 281.342.8932

Methodist Sugar Land Location:

16651 Southwest Freeway, Suite 360 · Sugar Land, Texas 77479 · 281.491.6200

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**Smoking:**

Smoking can cause a multitude of problems for a surgical patient, including the non-healing of a surgical incision and an increase rate of post operative infection. Please do not smoke for two weeks prior to and two weeks after surgery.

**Medication refills:**

Please call your pharmacy directly and request any needed refills. The pharmacy will contact our office and refills will be expedited.

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